

PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

CLERK'S REPORT

JULY 2017

1. Grant Applications: Voting for our application for outdoor works around the scout hut has now commenced in Tesco and will continue throughout July and August.
2. Defibrillators: Training in the use of our new community access defibrillators took place on Monday 3rd July at East Radnorshire Day Centre. Around 25 people attended and seemed to find the session most useful. More will be arranged, perhaps for specific groups, on request. Thank you to Bev for the use of the Day Centre.
3. Training: I hope to complete some notes for a short 'new councillor' induction session in August.
4. Street Cleaning: Cllr. Bamford has spoken to the volunteer who is happy to continue on an informal basis. I will still get information from neighbouring Councils as this may be useful in the future.
5. Meeting with Welsh Government to explore the relationship between Town and Community Councils: This takes place the day after our meeting. I will let you know how it goes.
6. Safe Routes Grant: A very interesting walk through with some issues still to be resolved.
7. One Voice Wales Larger Councils Conference: A useful day with speeches from 'shapemytown' www.shapemytown.org and from Welsh Government on local government reform. There were also sessions on external audit, devolvement of services, writing an annual report (not statutory for a Council of our size). The event also hosted the first One Voice Wales innovative practice awards, a number of which were won by small Councils.
8. SLCC and OWW Joint Wales Conference: Took place on 12th July in North Wales. Topics covered were finance and accountability, several sessions on devolvement of services including building capacity and management of these services and on insurance implications for local Councils.
9. August Meeting: I will keep business to a minimum but it is almost certain that there will need to be a formal meeting, followed by the annual Town Walk when Members look around the town to see what needs to be done and check on our sites - the Meadows, defibs etc. The volume of business is such that it can no longer all be left until September as there is then too much for me to catch up with, finance and planning items are time sensitive and cannot wait.
10. Grant Awarding Policy Working Group: This met on 28th June but unfortunately for various reasons only two Members attended - Cllrs. Kirkby and Ruby. The opinion was very much against much change from the present system.
11. Welsh Language Policy: This was something raised at Conference. Whilst not compulsory I think it would be best to have a simple policy and I will draft something short for a future meeting.
12. Hereford Street Toilets: Refurbishment should be well underway by the time of our meeting. The toilets will be closed one section at a time and cleaning will continue pretty much as normal. Work should complete by 21st July.